

A Millionaire's College for Dog "Sleuths"

Extraordinary Methods by Which Dogs Are Trained Into "Super-Police," Life Savers and Burglar Alarms as a Rich Man's Hobby

IN THESE DAYS of clamor for greater efficiency in almost every walk of life—in the industrial world, in the office, in the home, in the school, in the playground, even in the pulpit—it is not strange that some one should have attempted to secure greater efficiency in the dog world.

That is just what has been done by B. H. Throop, a millionaire dog lover, at his Elmview farm, at Scranton, Pa. Mr. Throop has established a college for the development of dog "sleuths" and makes the instruction his principal hobby. His object is to turn out the most efficient dogs ever bred, not only physically, but mentally, and some of the graduates of the Elmview Dog College certainly demonstrate the feasibility of the higher education for dogs.

Mr. Throop has found that the most promising pupils are German shepherd dogs and, for that reason, he confines his labors principally to dogs of that variety.

He trains them not only to detect criminals, but to protect their masters or mistresses against attacks by thugs or burglars and to rescue drowning persons.

That there is plenty of room for developing a more efficient method of rescuing drowning persons when the dog acts as the rescuer will be easily understood when it is remembered that an untrained dog, upon seeing his master in the water, will step from the bank into the water and swim laboriously to the victim.

This, as Mr. Throop points out, is a great waste of energy upon the dog's part, because by making a long flying leap into the water, the dog can save many swimming strokes and, at the same time, reach



B. H. Throop, Who Established the Dog College as a Hobby and Bruno von Schondorf, One of His Most Promising Pupils.

the drowning person much quicker. One of the first things the dogs at Mr. Throop's college are taught, therefore, is to save time and energy in water-rescue work by making a long flying leap from the shore instead of stepping directly into the water, and by dint of practice and patience, some of these dogs have acquired the ability to save at least ten feet in this way. The remarkable photograph at the top of this page shows one of Mr. Throop's dogs in the course of such a leap.

the dock from which the leap was made appearing at the extreme left of the picture.

Equally ingenious is the course of training adopted to develop the dogs as body-guards. The principal danger encountered in an assault by a thug is in the use by him of a weapon. It may be a knife or a revolver or a club. The dogs are trained to meet either. In the case of an attack by a man armed with a revolver or knife, the dog's training is such that at the first flash of the weapon he flies at the hand hold-

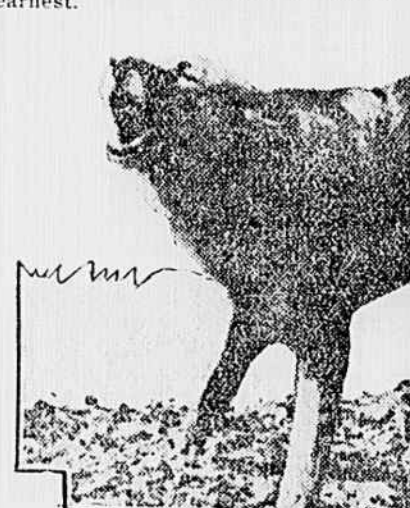
ing it and either compels the thug to drop the weapon altogether or at least deflects it.

This feat is acquired by coaching the animals to jump at any shining object at a given signal. It is almost instinctive for a dog to jump at a club or similar weapon in the hands of a hostile individual, but these dogs are so well-rounded in their education that no matter what the weapon is, they have a method for meeting it.

Another phase of their body-guard education is in the matter of giving an alarm. Mr. Throop has developed in his dogs the valuable faculty of remaining silent while on the scent, instead of baying like other hounds and thereby giving the fugitive the alarm. When, however, they catch up with their quarry they give vent to a most peculiar baying signal, quite unlike the natural cry of a hound and so distinctive that it can be readily recognized.

In the illustration at the foot of this page the method employed by two trained dogs when working together is clearly shown. While one is jumping at the revolver levelled at him, the other is busily engaged in sounding the alarm.

In training the animals to jump at intruders or assailants, the trainer wears a specially constructed padded garb to protect him against the dogs' teeth. With this protection, it is perfectly safe for the trainer to allow the animals to jump at him in earnest.



This Picture Shows Exactly How Two of the Trained Dogs Act Together When Encountering an Armed Burglar or Other Assailant. While One Leaps at the Weapon-Arm, the Other Gives Forth a Peculiar Baying Cry to Summon Help. The Upper Picture Shows a Dog Trained to Tree Fugitives. They Have Jumped as High as Fifteen Feet and Dragged Their Quarry to the Ground.

This Remarkable Photograph Shows How One of the "College Dogs" Acts When Called Upon to Save a Drowning Person. Instead of First Running Up and Down the Shore and Then Stepping Gingly Into the Water and Swimming Out to the Drowning Man, as an Untrained Dog Would, These Dogs Are Trained to Make a Flying Leap from the Shore. In This Way They Not Only Save Considerable Energy—Because It Is Easier to Cover Space Through the Air Than Through the Water—but They Also Save Valuable Time. These Leaps Sometimes Cover 12 to 15 Feet.

PHOTOS BY
J. T. JENNINGS,
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In Training Dogs to Leap at Assailants, the Trainer Who Plays the Part of a Thug, Is Protected by Wearing a Padded Garment Specially Made for the Purpose.

The Throop Dog College is housed in a building erected especially for the purpose. The dogs begin their training as puppies. Mr. Throop is assisted in the work of instruction by an expert trainer from Switzerland, and when they have finished a course under his direction, there is very little for them to learn in the way of sleuthcraft.

After being taught in the usual way to mind the voice of the master, the puppies are given exercise in jumping. The start is made with a hurdle about two feet high. The distance is increased as the dogs grow older and get more practise, and when the trainer is through with a full-grown animal, he can easily leap over a fence from ten to fifteen feet high.

Then the dogs are trained in following the scent and in holding a prisoner and in guarding things left in its care.

When one of the dogs comes from the hands of the Elmview trainer he is equipped to be of great value to municipalities, to owners of large estates or to any others who need faithful guardians possessing intelligence that is almost human.

Some of the feats of Elmview graduates are most remarkable.

They have been frequently turned out in pursuit of fugitives and have

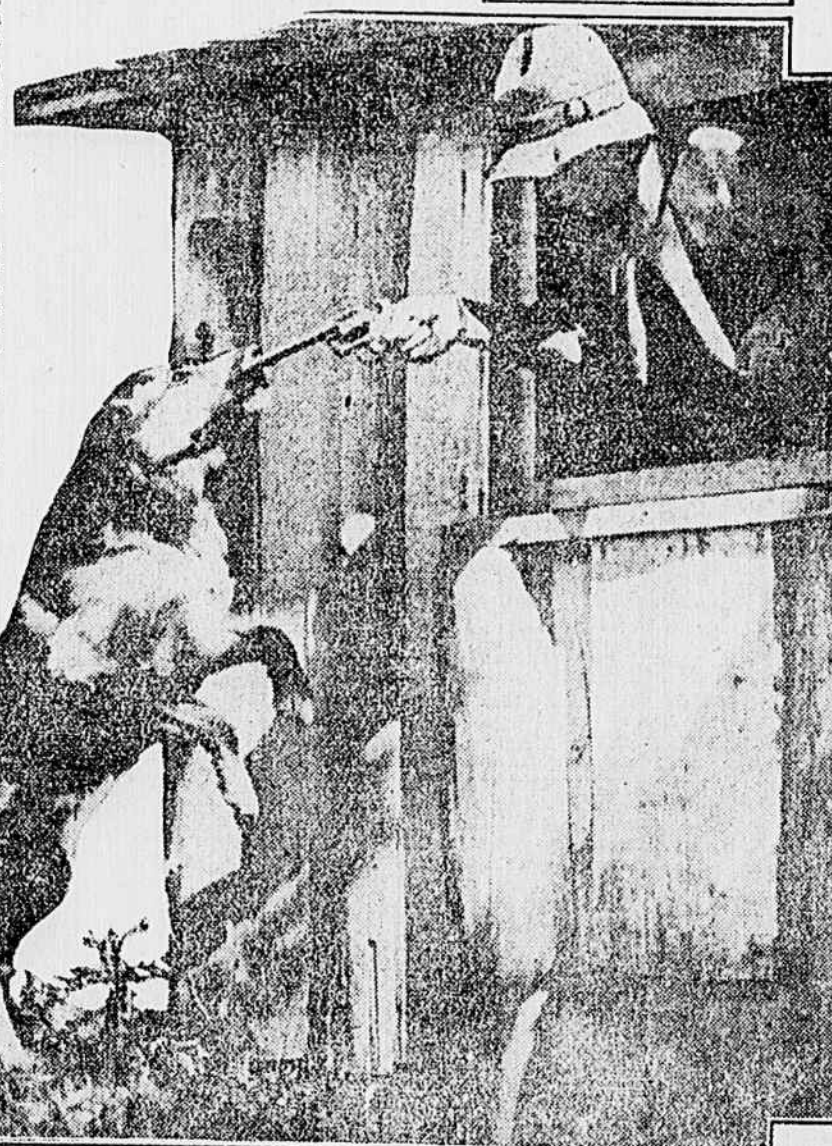
sometimes caught their quarry in the branches of trees at a height of fifteen feet from the ground.

Not long ago a thief broke into one of the barns on the Elmview farm and stole some feed from one of the boxes. It was thirty-six hours after the theft that the trainer put one of the dogs on the scent, but in a very short time the thief was apprehended. In any other trial where the dogs have been given the scent they have never failed to land the criminal or clear up the mystery of the escape.

When Burglar Hoot escaped from the Scranton jail one morning about a year ago, one of Mr. Throop's dogs was put on the scent. The animal quickly leaped over a wall and ran around in a cemetery near the jail to the Erie Railroad, where the scent was lost and the chase was given up. Subsequent events proved beyond doubt that Hoot jumped a train at that point. Had Hoot kept on foot there is no question that he would have been captured by the sagacious animal on his trail.

At the present time there are more than one hundred dogs at the Elmview Kennels. Seventy-five of them are puppies ranging in ages from a few days to seven or eight months. The larger pups are placed in wire-covered yards, where they gambol and get plenty of the exercise necessary to harden their muscles and equip them for the important work that may be in store for them.

The German shepherd dog is not a new breed, as many people in this country suppose, but rather an extremely old one, having been known and used in Germany and other countries on the Continent for hundreds of years as a shepherd dog. It is a native of Germany and is close kin to the Belgian, Holland and other varieties of shepherd dogs found in Europe, the chief difference being that the German dogs having been bred scientifically and carefully with a definite object in view, are to-day probably second to no other breed of dogs in the world for purity of strain and fixity of type.



Why We Don't Like to Wear Rubbers

THERE would be many more colds, much more bronchitis and more pneumonia if rubbers were not worn; but, in spite of this fact, nearly every one hates to put them on. And there's a very good reason why.

Boots and shoes are made of leather, and leather is the tanned skin of an animal. Every hide has pores in it, just as our own skin has, so that, when we are wearing shoes, these pores give a chance for the feet to breathe. Rubber, not being an animal's skin, but the gummy sap of a tree, has none of these pores, and so when we wear rubbers our feet can't breathe.

Of course, there is a good deal of difference between leather and skin. When we splash through a puddle on a city pavement or walk through mud on a country road, the dampness will go through one's shoes, but not

through one's skin. The reason is that the skin is alive and there is a kind of machinery which keeps live skin from letting the water go through; the leather is skin that is dead, and so the pores have little resistance to the entering of the water. Of course, leather can be made waterproof, but then the pores are nearly filled up.

Dry feet are absolutely necessary if one wants to keep healthy, and however much one may hate rubbers, they should be worn whenever there is need. But to wear them too much or too often is bad for the health.

Rubbers cause corns and bunions and various other ailments of the feet which cause a great deal of pain. But the main reason why we hate them is because they stop breathing, just as a rubber cap over the nose would. If all the body was covered with rubber, except for the face, a man would die within three days. The body has to breathe.